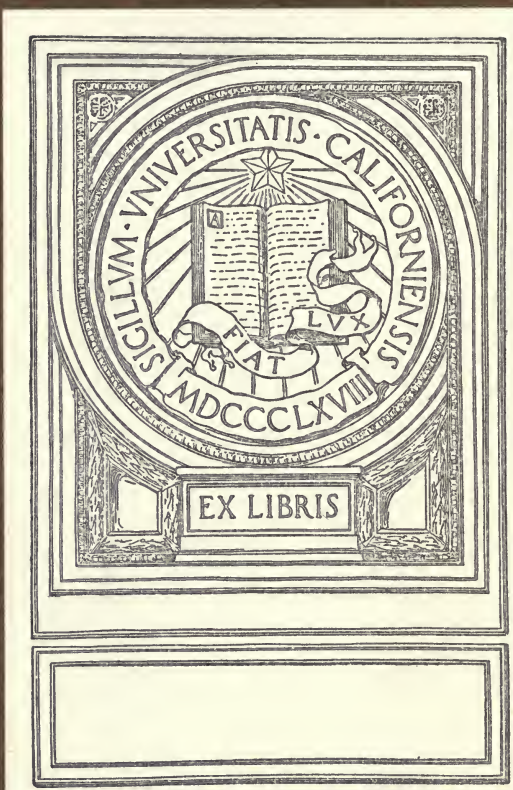
E
446
C65
1795
Case B


SIGILLVM · VNIVERSITATIS · CALIFORNIENSIS
LVX
FIAT
MDCCCLXVIII
EX LIBRIS

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SECOND

Convention of Delegates

FROM THE

ABOLITION SOCIETIES

Eſtabliſhed in different Parts of the United States,

ASSEMBLED AT

PHILADELPHIA,

ON THE SEVENTH DAY OF JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIVE, AND CONTINUED, BY ADJOURNMENTS, UNTIL THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF THE SAME MONTH, INCLUSIVE.

PHILADELPHIA:

PRINTED BY ZACHARIAH POULSON, JUNR. NUMBER EIGHTY, CHESNUT-STREET, EIGHT DOORS BELOW THIRD-STREET,

M DCC XCV.

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA

E446
C65
1795
Case B
*

MINUTES

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SECOND

Convention of Delegates.

Philadelphia, Wednesday, January 7th. 1795.

AGREEABLY to the recommendation of the Convention, held in this city last year, a number of Delegates, from the several Abolition Societies in the United States, assembled, this day, at the City Hall, when, by the credentials produced, it appeared, that the following persons had been chosen to represent their respective Societies in this Convention:

Connecticut Society.

Jonathan Edwards,
Uriah Tracy,
Zephaniah Swift.

*M257971

New
UNIV. OF
CALIFORN

New-York Society.

John Murray, junior,
William Johnſon,
Lawrence Embree,
William Dunlap,
William Walton Woolſey.

Pennſylvania Society.

William Rawle,
Robert Patterſon,
Benjamin Ruſh,
Samuel Coates,
Caſpar Wiſtar,
James Todd,
Benjamin Say.

Delaware Society.

Richard Baſſett,
John Ralſton,
Allen M'Lane,
Caleb Boyer.

Wilmington Society (ſtate of Delaware.)

Cyrus Newlin,
James A. Byard,
Joſeph Warner,
William Poole.

Maryland Society.

Samuel Sterett,
Adam Fonerdon,
Joſeph Townſend,

Joſeph

Joſeph Thornburgh,
George Buchanan,
John Bankſon,
Philip Moore.

Cheſter-town Society (ſtate of Maryland.)
Edward Scott,
James Houſton.

Of whom the following appeared and took their ſeats, *viz.*

Jonathan Edwards,
Uriah Tracy,
Zephaniah Swift,
William Johnſon,
Lawrence Embree,
William Dunlap,
William Walton Woolſey,
William Rawle,
Robert Patterſon,
Benjamin Ruſh,
Samuel Coates,
Caſpar Wiſtar,
James Todd,
Benjamin Say,
Richard Baſſett,
Caleb Boyer,
Cyrus Newlin,
Joſeph Warner,
Samuel Sterett,
Joſeph Townſend,
Joſeph Thornburgh,

John

John Bankſon,
Philip Moore,
Edward Scott,
James Houſton.

The Convention proceeded to the election of a Preſident, and, on counting the ballots, it appeared, that Benjamin Ruſh was duly elected.

Walter Franklin, one of the Secretaries of the Pennſylvania Abolition Society, was appointed Secretary, and Joſeph Fry, Doorkeeper.

Agreed, That all queſtions, which ſhall come before this Convention, be decided by a majority of the votes of the members preſent, and that every motion, when ſeconded, ſhall, if required by the Preſident, or any member, be reduced to writing.

The addreſs, from the laſt Convention, to the different Abolition Societies in the United States, was then read; after which, ſeveral written and verbal communications were made.

Jonathan Edwards, William Dunlap, Caſpar Wiſtar, Cyrus Newlin, Caleb Boyer, Philip Moore, and James Houſton, were appointed a committee to conſider of, and report, the objects proper for the attention of this Convention, and the moſt ſuitable means of attaining the ſame.

Ordered,

Ordered, That the ſeveral communications, made this evening, be referred to the above committee, and that the members of the Convention be requeſted to impart to them ſuch information as they may poſſeſs, relative to the object of their appointment.

Adjourned till to-morrow evening at five o'clock.

January 8th. 1795.

The Convention met.

Preſent—Jonathan Edwards, Uriah Tracy, Zephaniah Swift, William Johnſon, Lawrence Embree, William Dunlap, William Walton Woolſey, William Rawle, Robert Patterſon, Samuel Coates, Caſpar Wiſtar, James Todd, Benjamin Say, Richard Baſſett, Caleb Boyer, Cyrus Newlin, Joſeph Warner, Joſeph Townſend, Joſeph Thornburgh, John Bankſon, Philip Moore, Edward Scott, James Houſton.

The Preſident being abſent, Uriah Tracy was appointed to preſide for the evening.

An extract, from the minutes of the proceedings of a general meeting of the New Jerſey Abolition Society, was read, by which it appeared, that Joſeph Bloomfield, William Coxe, junior, James Sloan, John Wiſtar, and Franklin Davenport, were elected to repreſent that Society in this Convention, of whom, William Coxe, junior, James Sloan, and Franklin Davenport, appeared and took their ſeats.

The committee, appointed at the laſt meeting, not being prepared to make a final report, were continued.

Several communications, from the New Jerſey Society, were preſented by their Delegates, and referred to the ſaid committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow afternoon at five o'clock.

January 9th. 1795.

The Convention met.

Preſent—Jonathan Edwards, Uriah Tracy, Zephaniah Swift, William Johnſon, Lawrence Embree, William Dunlap, William Walton Woolſey, William Coxe, junior, James Sloan, Franklin Davenport, William Rawle, Robert Patterſon, Benjamin Ruſh, Samuel Coates, Caſpar Wiſtar, James Todd, Benjamin Say, Richard Baſſett, Caleb Boyer, Cyrus Newlin, Joſeph Warner, Samuel Sterett, Joſeph Townſend, Joſeph Thornburgh, John Bankſon, Philip Moore, Edward Scott, James Houſton.

A letter, from the Preſident of the Providence Abolition Society, was read; by which it appeared, that Theodore Foſter and George Benſon were appointed to repreſent that Society in this Convention.

A letter, from the Waſhington Abolition Society in Pennſylvania, was, alſo, read, notifying the appointment of Thomas Scott, Abſalom

Abſalom Baird, and Samuel Clark, as Repreſentatives of the ſaid Society, in this Convention.

The Secretary was directed to inform ſuch of thoſe gentlemen as are now in this city, of the receipt and purport of the above letters.

The Convention being informed, that the abſence of Joſeph Bloomfield, of New Jerſey, was occaſioned by ſickneſs, mention thereof was ordered to be made on the Minutes.

The committee, appointed to conſider of, and report, the objects proper for the conſideration of the Convention, and the moſt ſuitable means of attaining the ſame, made report, which, after amendment, was adopted as follows, *viz.*

Firſt, That an addreſs be made, by this Convention, to the ſeveral Abolition Societies in the United States, recommending to them, to ſend Deputies to a Convention, ſimilar to the preſent, to be holden in Philadelphia the firſt day of January, in the year 1796; alſo, that it be recommended to thoſe Societies, who have not ſent, to this Convention, complete copies of the laws of their ſeveral ſtates, relative to ſlavery, to ſend, to the next Convention, copies of all ſuch laws, both thoſe which are now in force, and thoſe which have been repealed; and to ſend, to the next, and every ſucceeding, Convention,

an accurate list of their officers for the time being, together with an account of the place of their abode, and of the offices, civil, military, or ecclesiastic, which they may sustain, with the number of members of which they consist: that it be further recommended, to the several Societies, to send, annually, to the Convention, an accurate list of all those persons who have been relieved and liberated by their agency; and, also, an account of such trials and decisions of courts, the general knowledge of which they shall judge subservient to the cause of abolition: that it be recommended to the several Societies, to institute public periodical discourses, or orations, on the subject of slavery, and the means of its abolition; also, to continue, without remission, and in such ways as they shall, respectively, judge most likely to be successful, their exertions to procure an amelioration of the laws of their respective states, relative to the Blacks; and, at the same time, to give particular attention to the education of the black children: and, as an historical review of the legislative provisions, relative to slavery, in the several states of the Union, from their respective settlements to the present time, would be conducive to the general benefit,—that it be further recommended, to the several Abolition Societies, to take measures for procuring the materials, and promoting the publication, of such a work; and

that

that a communication of the ſteps taken, in purſuance of this recommendation, be made to the enſuing Convention.

Second, That the Convention take into conſideration the caſe of thoſe perſons, who, having been made free by the republic of France, are ſtill holden in ſlavery by thoſe who have emigrated into the United States from the territories of the ſaid republic; and that the Convention deviſe ſome lawful meaſures for their relief:—we barely ſuggeſt, whether an application to the French ambaſſador be, or be not, proper in the caſe.

Third, That the Convention take into conſideration the means of improving the condition of the Blacks, who are, or may be, made free in the different ſtates, and of preventing the inconveniences that may ariſe from the degraded ſtate of the Negroes in the United States.

Fourth, That it be recommended, to the Society of New Jerſey, to enter on proper meaſures to procure an amendment of the law of that ſtate, prohibiting the manumiſſion of ſlaves of a greater age than thirty-five years.

William Johnſon, Franklin Davenport, and Samuel Coates, were appointed to prepare an addreſs, as propoſed in the firſt and fourth ſections of the above report.

The

The ſecond ſection was referred to William Walton Woolſey, William Rawle, James Todd, and Edward Scott, to report thereon.

The third ſection was referred to Lawrence Embree, Caſpar Wiſtar, Benjamin Say, Joſeph Warner, and Samuel Sterett, to report thereon.

Samuel Coates, James Sloan, and Joſeph Townſend, were appointed a committee to enquire, and report, concerning the meaſures taken, in purſuance of the ſeveral reſolutions of the former Convention, for tranſmitting memorials and addreſſes to the Congreſs of the United States, and the Legiſlatures of individual ſtates.

Adjourned till to-morrow evening at ſix o'clock.

January 10*th.* 1795.

The Convention met.

Preſent—Uriah Tracy, Zephaniah Swift, William Johnſon, Lawrence Embree, William Dunlap, William Walton Woolſey, James Sloan, William Rawle, Robert Patterſon, Benjamin Ruſh, Samuel Coates, James Todd, Benjamin Say, Caleb Boyer, Cyrus Newlin, Joſeph Warner, Joſeph Townſend, Joſeph Thornburgh, John Bankſon, Philip Moore, James Houſton.

Theodore

Theodore Foſter, delegated to repreſent the Providence Society, appeared and took his ſeat.

The committee, to whom was referred the ſecond ſection of the report of the committee of arrangement, reported, that they had taken the ſubject into conſideration; that it appeared to them, to be within the province of the ſeveral Societies to act therein; and that the Convention ſhould recommend, to the ſaid Societies, to exert themſelves for the liberation of the perſons deſcribed in the ſaid report, ſo far as may be conſiſtent with the laws of their reſpective ſtates.

Ordered, That the ſaid report be accepted.

Adjourned till Monday evening next at ſix o'clock.

Monday evening, January 12th. 1795.

The Convention met.

Preſent—Jonathan Edwards, Zephaniah Swift, Theodore Foſter, William Dunlap, William Johnſon, Lawrence Embree, William Walton Woolſey, James Sloan, William Rawle, Robert Patterſon, Samuel Coates, Caſpar Wiſtar, James Todd, Benjamin Say, Caleb Boyer, Cyrus Newlin, Joſeph Warner, Joſeph Townſend, Joſeph Thornburgh, John Bankſon, Philip Moore, Edward Scott, James Houſton.

The

The Preſident being abſent, Zephaniah Swift was appointed to preſide for the evening.

The committee, appointed to enquire concerning the meaſures taken, in purſuance of the reſolutions of the former Convention, for tranſmitting memorials and addreſſes to the Congreſs of the United States, and the Legiſlatures of individual ſtates,—preſented the following report, which was read and accepted, *viz.*

The committee, appointed to enquire if the memorials to Congreſs, and the different ſtate Legiſlatures, were preſented agreeably to the order of the Convention laſt year,—report,

That the memorial was preſented to the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States, in Congreſs aſſembled, who took the ſame into conſideration, and granted the prayer thereof by enacting a law, of which the following is a copy:

An Act to prohibit the carrying on the Slave-trade from the United States to any foreign place or country.

Section I. BE *it enacted by the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America, in Congreſs aſſembled*, That no citizen or citizens of the United States, or foreigner, or any other perſon

perſon coming into, or reſiding within the ſame, ſhall, for himſelf or any other perſon whatſoever, either as maſter, factor or owner, build, fit, equip, load or otherwiſe prepare any ſhip or veſſel, within any port or place of the ſaid United States, nor ſhall cauſe any ſhip or veſſel to ſail from any port or place within the ſame, for the purpoſe of carrying on any trade or traffic in ſlaves, to any foreign country; or for the purpoſe of procuring, from any foreign kingdom, place or country, the inhabitants of ſuch kingdom, place or country, to be tranſported to any foreign country, port or place whatever, to be ſold or diſpoſed of, as ſlaves: And if any ſhip or veſſel ſhall be ſo fitted out, as aforeſaid, for the ſaid purpoſes, or ſhall be cauſed to ſail, ſo as aforeſaid, every ſuch ſhip or veſſel, her tackle, furniture, apparel and other appurtenances, ſhall be forfeited to the United States; and ſhall be liable to be ſeized, proſecuted and condemned, in any of the circuit courts or diſtrict court for the diſtrict, where the ſaid ſhip or veſſel may be found and ſeized.

Section II. *And be it further enacted*, That all and every perſon, ſo building, fitting out, equipping, loading, or otherwiſe preparing, or ſending away, any ſhip or veſſel, knowing, or intending, that the ſame ſhall be employed in ſuch trade or buſineſs, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act,

or

or any ways aiding or abetting therein, ſhall ſeverally forfeit and pay the ſum of two thouſand dollars, one moiety thereof, to the uſe of the United States, and the other moiety thereof, to the uſe of him or her, who ſhall ſue for and proſecute the ſame.

Section III. *And be it further enacted*, That the owner, maſter or factor of each and every foreign ſhip or veſſel, clearing out for any of the coaſts or kingdoms of Africa, or ſuſpected to be intended for the ſlave-trade, and the ſuſpicion being declared to the officer of the cuſtoms, by any citizen, on oath or affirmation, and ſuch information being to the ſatisfaction of the ſaid officer, ſhall firſt give bond with ſufficient ſureties, to the Treaſurer of the United States, that none of the natives of Africa, or any other foreign country or place, ſhall be taken on board the ſaid ſhip or veſſel, to be tranſported, or ſold as ſlaves, in any other foreign port or place whatever, within nine months thereafter.

Section IV. *And be it further enacted*, That if any citizen or citizens of the United States ſhall, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this act, take on board, receive or tranſport any ſuch perſons, as above deſcribed, in this act, for the purpoſe of ſelling them as ſlaves, as aforeſaid, he or they ſhall forfeit and pay, for each and every perſon,

ſo

ſo received on board, tranſported, or ſold as aforeſaid, the ſum of two hundred dollars, to be recovered in any court of the United States proper to try the ſame; the one moiety thereof, to the uſe of the United States, and the other moiety to the uſe of ſuch perſon or perſons, who ſhall ſue for and proſecute the ſame.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG.
Speaker of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.

JOHN ADAMS, *Vice-Preſident of the United States, and Preſident of the Senate.*

APPROVED—March the twenty-ſecond, 1794.

G°: WASHINGTON, *Preſident of the United States.*

That the memorial, to the General Aſſembly of Connecticut, was preſented, accompanied with a memorial from the Abolition Society of that ſtate; whereupon, a bill was originated, and paſſed, in the Houſe of Repreſentatives, to aboliſh ſlavery in Connecticut; which bill was negatived by a ſmall majority in the legiſlative Council.

That the memorials, to the Aſſemblies of New Jerſey and Pennſylvania, were preſented, but not acted upon.

That the memorial, to the Delaware Aſſembly, was preſented late in the ſeſſion, but no order taken thereon.

That the memorials, to the Legiſlatures of New York, Maryland, and Virginia, by reaſon of accidents, were not preſented.

That no certain information is yet obtained, that the memorials were presented to the Legislatures of North Carolina, South Carolina, or Georgia, although your committee have reason to believe they were presented, as they were forwarded by a careful person.

The committee, appointed to prepare an address, as proposed in the first and fourth sections of the report of the committee of arrangement, presented one, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The committee, to whom was referred the third section of the report of the committee of arrangement, made report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The following resolutions were then adopted, *viz.*

Resolved, That addresses be prepared and presented to the Legislatures of those states, which have not passed laws for preventing the importation of slaves.

Samuel Coates presented an essay of an address on this subject, to the state of Georgia, which, with the above resolution, was referred to William Dunlap, William Rawle and Joseph Townsend.

Resolved, That a memorial be transmitted to the Legislature of South Carolina, requesting a continuance of the act for preventing the importation of slaves.

Jonathan Edwards presented a draught of an address on this subject, which, with the resolution,

reſolution, was referred to the above committee, who were authorized to embrace ſuch other objects, in the memorials, as they might judge proper.

Reſolved, That Theodore Foſter, William Rawle, and William Johnſon, be a committee to conſider, and report, whether any, and what, amendments, appear neceſſary in the act, paſſed by the Congreſs of the United States, prohibiting the carrying on the ſlave-trade to any foreign place or country.

Reſolved, That it be recommended to the ſeveral Societies, to tranſmit, to the next Convention, an account of the number of free Negroes in their reſpective ſtates, with a general ſtatement of their property, employments, and moral conduct.

The addreſs, to the ſeveral Abolition Societies, was re-committed to William Walton Woolſey, William Johnſon, Samuel Coates, and Robert Patterſon, for the purpoſe of incorporating therein ſuch other matters as this Convention have reſolved to recommend to the ſaid Societies.

Adjourned till to-morrow evening at ſix o'clock.

January 13*th.* 1795.

The Convention met.

Preſent—Uriah Tracy, Zephaniah Swift, Theodore Foſter, William Johnſon, Lawrence Embree, William Dunlap, William Walton Woolſey,

Woolsey, James Sloan, William Rawle, Robert Patterson, Samuel Coates, Caspar Wistar, James Todd, Benjamin Say, Caleb Boyer, Cyrus Newlin, Joseph Warner, Joseph Townsend, Joseph Thornburgh, John Bankson, Philip Moore, Edward Scott, and James Houston.

The President being absent, Theodore Foster was appointed to preside for the evening.

The committee, appointed to prepare memorials to the Legislatures of the states of Georgia and South Carolina, presented two essays, which were read; the one to the Legislature of Georgia, was ordered to lie on the table; that to the Legislature of South Carolina, after amendment, was agreed to as follows, *viz.*

To the of the State of South Carolina.

The memorial and petition of the Delegates from the several Societies, formed in different parts of the United States, for promoting the abolition of slavery, in Convention assembled, in Philadelphia, on the seventh day of January, 1795.

Respectfully shew,

THAT, having been deputed, and having convened, for the purpose of considering, and carrying into effect, the most proper

proper measures for the abolition of slavery; and being forcibly impressed with a sense of the dangers to which the citizens of the United States are exposed, while a numerous class of men exist among them, deprived of their natural rights, and forcibly held in bondage;—we think it our duty to address you, as men, fellow citizens, and brethren, and earnestly to request your attention to the means of avoiding the evils naturally resulting from the above mentioned unhappy circumstances.

The first step which we take the liberty of suggesting to you, is an entire prohibition of all traffic in slaves, between your state and every other nation or state, either by importation or exportation. This is the first and principal object of our memorial—an object which we the more earnestly recommend to your attention, as we are informed that the law of your state, prohibiting the importation of slaves, will expire sometime in March next.

In considering this subject, many methods of conciliating the affections of this unfortunate people, and preparing them for that state in society upon which depends our political happiness, suggest themselves;—such as, an amelioration of their condition and a diffusion of knowledge among them. But, as nothing can be effectual while the number of slaves may be daily increased by importation,

tion, and while the minds of our citizens are debaſed, and their hearts hardened, by contemplating theſe people only through the medium of avarice or prejudice (a neceſſary conſequence of the traffic in man) we confine the prayer of this petition to the total prohibition of all traffic in ſlaves, between your ſtate and every other nation or ſtate, either by importation or exportation; which we reſpectfully ſolicit you to grant, having full confidence, that, independant of other conſiderations, you will ſee the evident policy of the meaſure.

The committee, appointed to conſider whether any, and what, amendments appear neceſſary in the act, paſſed by Congreſs, prohibiting the carrying on the ſlave-trade to any foreign place or country, made report as follows, *viz.*

The committee, to whom was referred the conſideration of the act of the Congreſs of the United States, for prohibiting the traffic in ſlaves, report,—

That, in their opinion, no amendment is neceſſary to the law in queſtion. It appears, to them, to prohibit the exportation of ſlaves from America, for the purpoſes of traffic, or from any part of any foreign country, whether a port, river, bay, or coaſt, to any other foreign country. The generical term "place" certainly includes as well the ſea as the

the land; and it is, in ſubſtance, declared to be unlawful ſo to traffic in any place or manner, except only what the conſtitution, at preſent, denies the power of reſtraining, *viz.* the importation of ſlaves into the United States.

Whether further experience may point out defects at preſent not ſeen, the committee cannot predict. It may not, perhaps, be prudent to aid avarice and inhumanity by the attempt.

Ordered, That the ſaid report be accepted.

On motion,

Reſolved, That this Convention addreſs the free black people, in the United States, exhorting them, by ſuitable arguments and motives, to ſuch conduct and behaviour as may be judged moſt proper to promote their own happineſs, and render them uſeful members of ſociety.

Ordered, That Samuel Coates, Robert Patterſon, and William Dunlap, be a committee to prepare, and report, an addreſs conformable to the ſaid reſolution.

Adjourned till to-morrow evening at ſix o'clock.

January 14*th.* 1795.

The Convention met.

Preſent—Uriah Tracy, Zephaniah Swift, Theodore Foſter, William Johnſon, Lawrence Embree, William Walton Woolſey, James Sloan,

Sloan, Robert Patterſon, Benjamin Ruſh, Samuel Coates, Caſpar Wiſtar, James Todd, Benjamin Say, Cyrus Newlin, Joſeph Warner, Joſeph Townſend, and James Houſton.

The addreſs, to the Legiſlature of the ſtate of Georgia, was read a ſecond time, and, being amended, was adopted as follows, *viz.*

To the *of the*
State of Georgia.

The memorial and petition of the Delegates from the ſeveral Societies, formed in different parts of the United States, for promoting the abolition of ſlavery, in Convention aſſembled, in Philadelphia, on the ſeventh day of January, 1795.

Reſpectfully ſhew,

THAT the Convention, aſſembled in the month of January, 1794, addreſſed your body on the ſubject of the African ſlave-trade; and the preſent Convention, not having been informed of the ſucceſs of that memorial, have thought it a duty incumbent on them, to re-call your attention to ſome points nearly connected with the honor of humanity, and the intereſt of your ſtate, and of the United States.

We have learned, with the higheſt ſatisfaction, that you have prohibited the importation of ſlaves into your ſtate, from all other

other parts of the world, except Africa. We congratulate you, and the friends of humanity in general, on ſuch a ſtep; but the time, we hope, is not far diſtant, when every motive of wiſdom and true policy will lead you to prohibit entirely this ſpecies of commerce. And we, at this time, requeſt your ſerious attention to a conſideration of the evil likely to enſue from the continuance of the traffic, and to the numerous advantages which muſt ariſe from its abolition. Among the leaſt of theſe, we would mention the conſiſtency it would afford to the American character, now held up, as an example to the European world; and the good treatment which might hence be naturally expected, as likely to be afforded to thoſe blacks who are already in your country. To theſe ſuggeſtions, permit us to add a wiſh, that you would conſider of the propriety of paſſing a law, to empower the owners of ſlaves to grant their gradual emancipation, by will or otherwiſe, as we are well convinced, that the happieſt effects are to be expected from a progreſſive abolition of ſlavery.

The committee, to whom was re-committed the addreſs to the ſeveral Abolition Societies, for the purpoſe of incorporating therein ſuch other matters as had received

the approbation of the Convention ſince the appointment of the firſt committee,—preſented one with the additions, which, being read and amended, was adopted as follows, *viz.*

To the Society for promoting the abolition of ſlavery, &c.

THE Delegates, from the ſeveral Abolition Societies in the United States, convened in this city, expreſs to you, with great ſatisfaction, the pleaſure they have experienced from the punctual attendance of the perſons delegated to this Convention, and that harmony with which they have deliberated on the ſeveral matters that have been preſented to them, at this time, for their conſideration. The benefits which may flow from a continuance of this general meeting, by aiding the principal deſign of its inſtitution—the univerſal emancipation of the wretched Africans who are yet in bondage, appear to us ſo many and important, that we are induced to recommend to you, to ſend Delegates to a ſimilar Convention, which we propoſe to be holden, in this city, on the firſt day of January, in the year one thouſand, ſeven hundred and ninety-ſix.

We have thought it proper to requeſt your further attention to that part of the addreſs, of the former Convention, which relates to the procurement of certified copies of the

laws

laws of your ſtate reſpecting ſlavery; and that you would ſend, to the next Convention, exact copies of all ſuch laws as are now in force, and of ſuch as have been repealed. Convinced that an hiſtorical review of the various acts and proviſions of the Legiſlatures of the ſeveral ſtates, relating to ſlavery, from the periods of their reſpective ſettlements to the preſent time, by tracing the progreſs of the ſyſtem of African ſlavery in this country, and its ſucceſſive changes in the different governments of the Union, would throw much light on the objects of our enquiry and attention, and enable us to determine, how far the cauſe of juſtice and humanity has advanced among us, and how ſoon we may reaſonably expect to ſee it triumphant;—we recommend to you, to take ſuch meaſures as you may think moſt conducive to that purpoſe, for procuring materials for the work now propoſed, and aſſiſting its publication; and to communicate, to the enſuing Convention, what progreſs you ſhall have made toward perfecting the plan here offered for your conſideration and care.

Believing that an acquaintance with the names of the officers of the ſeveral Abolition Societies, would facilitate that friendly correſpondence which ought always to be preſerved between our various aſſociations, we requeſt that you would ſend, to the next,

and

and to every future, Convention, an accurate liſt of all the officers of your Society, for the time being, with the number of members of which it conſiſts. And it would aſſiſt that Convention in aſcertaining the exiſting ſtate of ſlavery in the United States, if you were to forward to them an exact account of the perſons who have been liberated by the agency of your Society, and of thoſe who may be conſidered as ſignal inſtances of the relief that you have afforded; and, alſo, a ſtatement of the number of free blacks in your ſtate, their property, employments, and moral conduct.

As a knowledge of what has been done, and of that ſucceſs which has attended the efforts of humanity, will cheriſh the hope of benevolence, and ſtimulate to further exertion, we truſt that you will be of opinion with us, that it would be highly uſeful to procure correct reports of all ſuch trials, and deciſions of courts of judicature, reſpecting ſlavery, a knowledge of which may be ſubſervient to the cauſe of abolition, and to tranſmit them to the next, or to any future, Convention.

It cannot have eſcaped your obſervation, how many perſons there are who continue the hateful practice of enſlaving their fellow men, and who acquieſce in the ſophiſtry of the advocates of that practice, merely from want of reflection, and from an habitual attention

attention to their own immediate intereſt. If to ſuch were often applied the force of reaſon, and the perſuaſion of eloquence, they might be awakened to a ſenſe of their injuſtice, and be ſtartled with horror at the enormity of their conduct. To produce ſo deſirable a change in ſentiment, as well as practice, we recommend to you the inſtituting of annual, or other periodical, diſcourſes, or orations, to be delivered in public, on the ſubject of ſlavery, and the means of its abolition.

We cannot forbear expreſſing to you our earneſt deſire, that you will continue, without ceaſing, to endeavour, by every method in your power which can promiſe any ſucceſs, to procure, either an abſolute repeal of all the laws in your ſtate, which countenance ſlavery, or ſuch an amelioration of them as will gradually produce an entire abolition. Yet, even ſhould that great end be happily attained, it cannot put a period to the neceſſity of further labor. The education of the emancipated, the nobleſt and moſt arduous taſk which we have to perform, will require all our wiſdom and virtue, and the conſtant exerciſe of the greateſt ſkill and diſcretion. When we have broken his chains, and reſtored the African to the enjoyment of his rights, the great work of juſtice and benevolence is not accompliſhed—The new born citizen muſt receive that inſtruction, and

thoſe

thoſe powerful impreſſions of moral and religious truth, which will render him capable and deſirous of fulfilling the various duties he owes to himſelf and to his country. By educating ſome in the higher branches of ſcience, and all in the uſeful parts of learning, and in the precepts of religion and morality, we ſhall not only do away the reproach and calumny ſo unjuſtly laviſhed upon us, but confound the enemies of truth, by evincing that the unhappy ſons of Africa, in ſpite of the degrading influence of ſlavery, are in no wiſe inferior to the more fortunate inhabitants of Europe and America.

As a mean of effectuating, in ſome degree, a deſign ſo virtuous and laudable, we recommend to you to appoint a committee, annually, or for any other more convenient period, to execute ſuch plans, for the improvement of the condition and moral character of the free blacks in your ſtate, as you may think beſt adapted to your particular ſituation.

By a decree of the National Convention of France, all the blacks and people of color, within the territories of the French republic, are declared free, and entitled to an equal participation of the rights of citizens of France. We have been informed that many perſons, of the above deſcription, notwithſtanding the decree in their favor, have been brought from the Weſt-India iſlands, by emigrants, into the United States, and are

now

now held as ſlaves.—We ſuggeſt to you the propriety, as well as the neceſſity, of making enquiry into the ſubject, and of effecting their liberation, ſo far as may be found conſiſtent with the laws of your ſtate.

Copies of our proceedings will be tranſmitted to you, and we hope, that you will receive ſuch ſatisfaction as will induce your early attention to the objects we have here recommended.

The committee, appointed to prepare an addreſs to the free black people, reported one, which was read, and ordered to be poſtponed for the conſideration of the next Convention.

Reſolved, That Theodore Foſter, Robert Patterſon, Samuel Coates, and Benjamin Say, be a committee to ſuperintend the publication and diſtribution of the proceedings of this Convention; and that ſo many copies thereof as may be thought proper by the Pennſylvania Abolition Society, be printed, and diſtributed among the ſeveral Abolition Societies in the United States.

That the addreſs, to the ſeveral Abolition Societies, be ſigned by the Preſident, atteſted by the Secretary, and tranſmitted, by the above mentioned committee, to the ſaid Societies.

That the Memorials, to the Legiſlatures of the ſtates of South Carolina and Georgia, be

ſigned

QH 20774820C

ſigned and atteſted as above mentioned, and tranſmitted to the reſpective Preſidents or Speakers of one branch of the Legiſlature, or laid before the reſpective Houſes, in ſuch manner as the Preſident may think expedient.

That a copy of the proceedings of this Convention be tranſmitted to the Preſident of the Abolition Society of London.

Reſolved, That the Abolition Society of Pennſylvania be requeſted to thank the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia for accommodating the Convention with a room.

The Convention then adjourned *ſine die.*

Publiſhed by order of the Convention,

WALTER FRANKLIN, *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, January 14th. 1795.

Gaylamount
Pamphlet
Binder
Gaylord Bros., Inc.
Stockton, Calif.
T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

M257971 E446
C65
1795
Case
B

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY